

Dear Commission Members,

My name is Bob Hasson and I am thrilled to be joining the Commission to Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student Performance in Maine. I am truly looking forward to this effort and pledge to bring my full passion and best effort to my role as chair.

As a Commission, our scope outlined in statute provides us with an incredible opportunity to make policy recommendations to truly move Maine public education forward. During our several meetings, we will focus on the big ideas where there is room for true impact. Our time will be spent developing areas of consensus, building out sound policy proposals to advance our work, and generating recommendations that we may provide to Governor LePage and the 128th Legislature. When we reach agreement, we may even generate draft legislation implementing our recommendations.

To set expectations for each of our meetings, pre-readings will be circulated for future meetings, as well as frames to think about. We will also have the opportunity for input from commission members regarding the design of the meetings.

For the first meeting, I am providing you with two readings:

1. “No Time to Lose: How to Build a World-Class Education System State-By-State”

This report from the National Conference of State Legislatures provides a comprehensive, comparative look at systems of education throughout the world. It provides a lens through which to think about best practices in an international context, and I hope it can stretch our thinking about what we seek to achieve in Maine.

**2. “An Independent Review of Maine’s Essential Programs and Services Funding Act”
(aka the Picus report)**

I am told that members of the Commission requested that this report be made available to all Commission members. While we will not dedicate time to the report during Monday’s meeting, we will revisit it at subsequent meetings. Due to large file size, we will post this report and the resulting 2015 report from the “Commission to Study the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula” on the website we have set up for our meeting materials. You may find it at: <http://www.maine.gov/doe/blue-ribbon/>

I look forward to seeing many of you on Monday. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Warm regards,

Bob